VIII

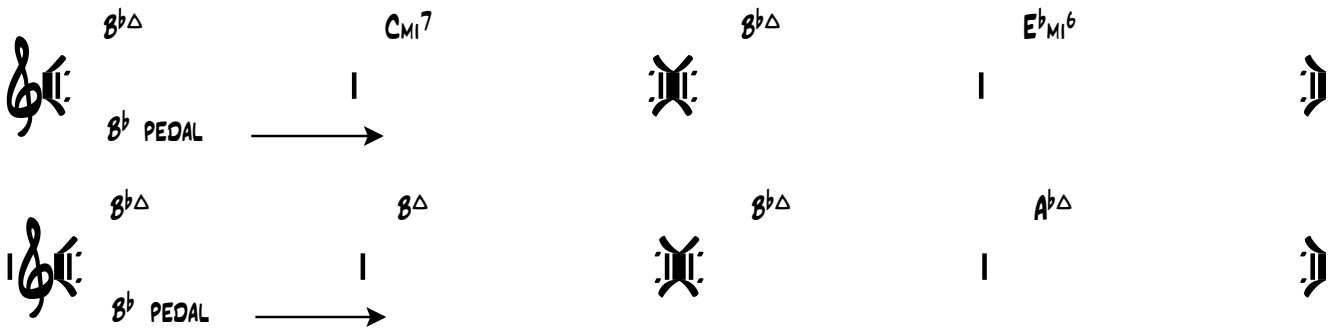
Theme's

piano/trio arrangements
solopiano (rubato/performance)

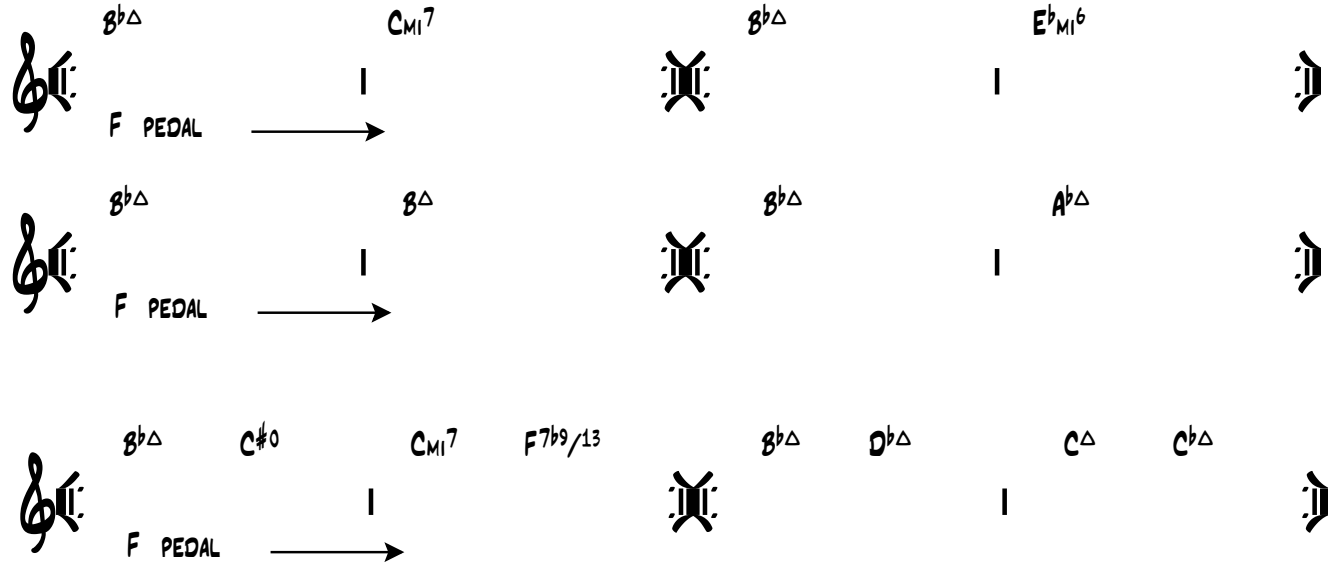
As I have mentioned before, most of the time you will be comping, also during the theme, however when playing trio (most exams at the conservatory!) you'll have to play the theme as well.
In this case, you have to put some effort in arranging the theme for the piano and/or the trio. This means some nice voicings, a little reharmonising of the melody (use the two hand voicings as mentioned in chapter 2!), some nice fills (lines or chords) and of course an intro and ending!

Some ideas for intro's:
You can use any kind of turnaround or a vamp (repeat as often as you like):

1. pedal on I

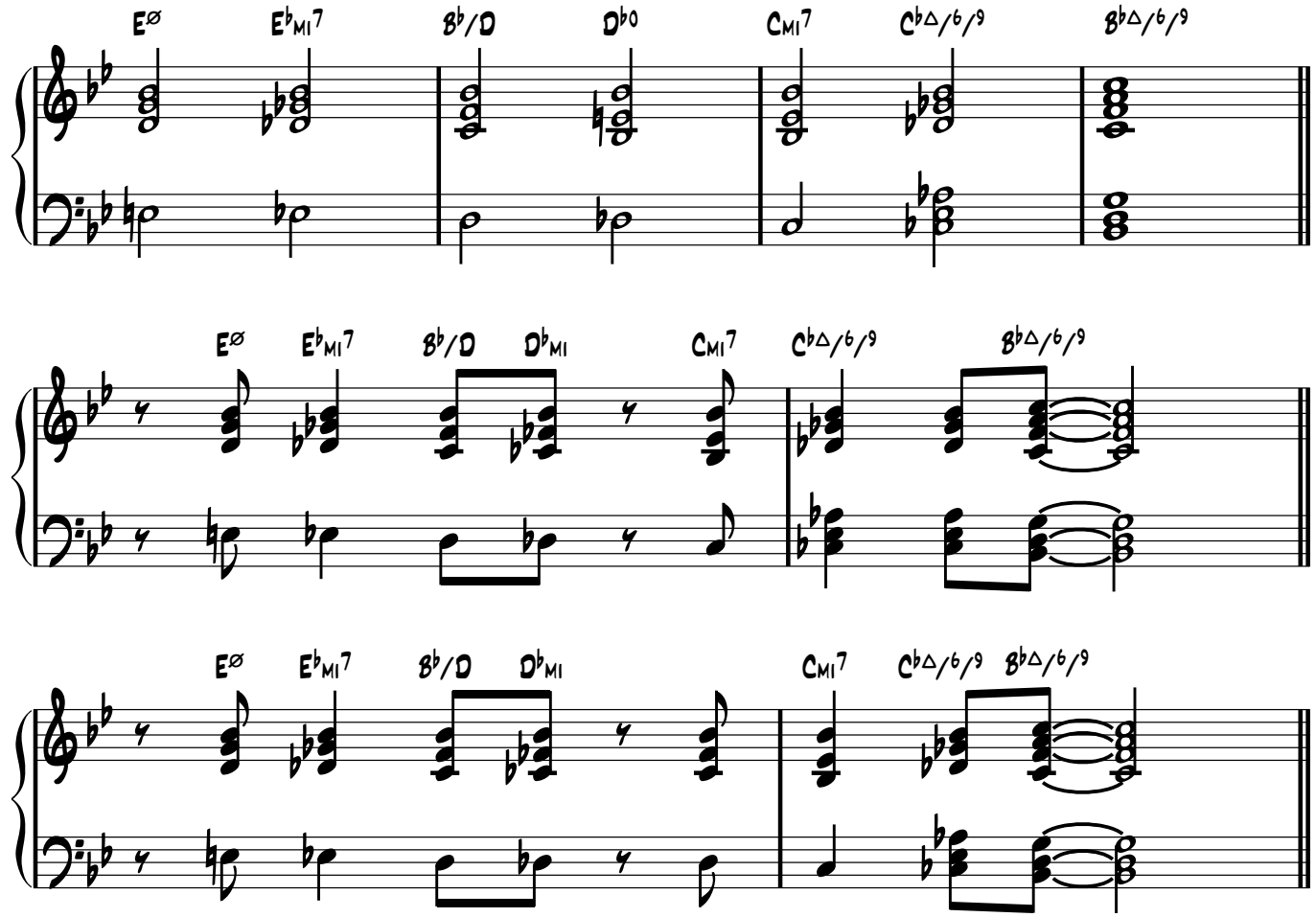


2. pedal on V

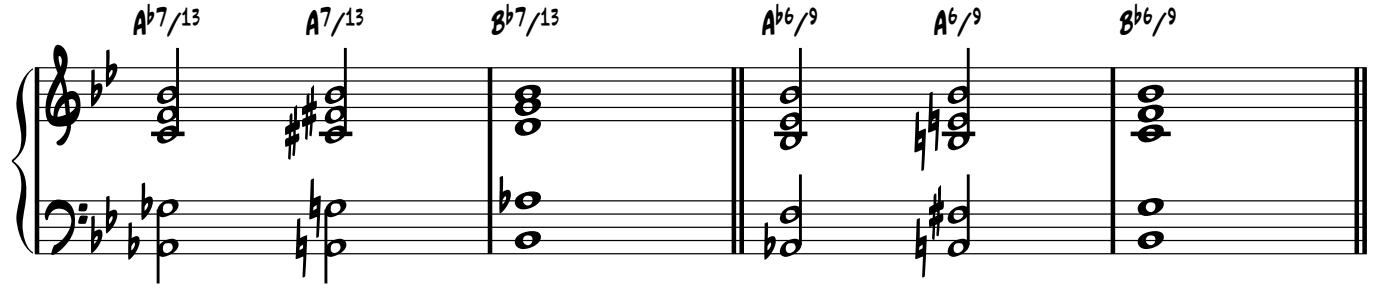


Some ideas for endings:

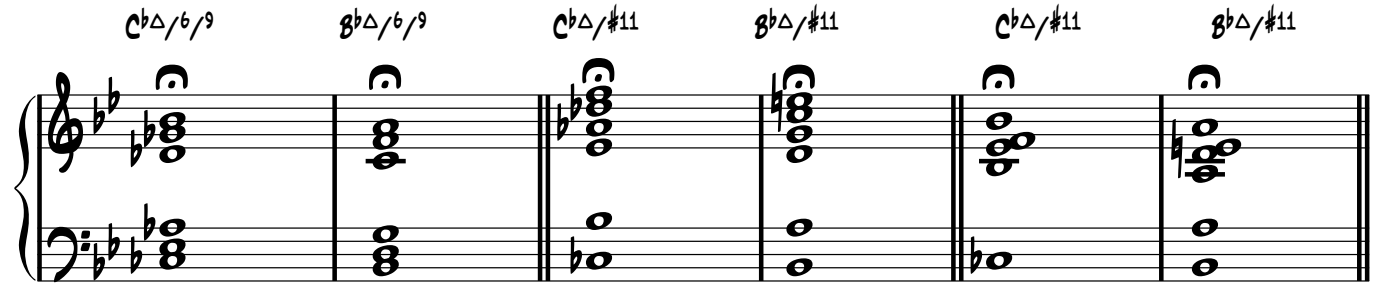
#IV descending:



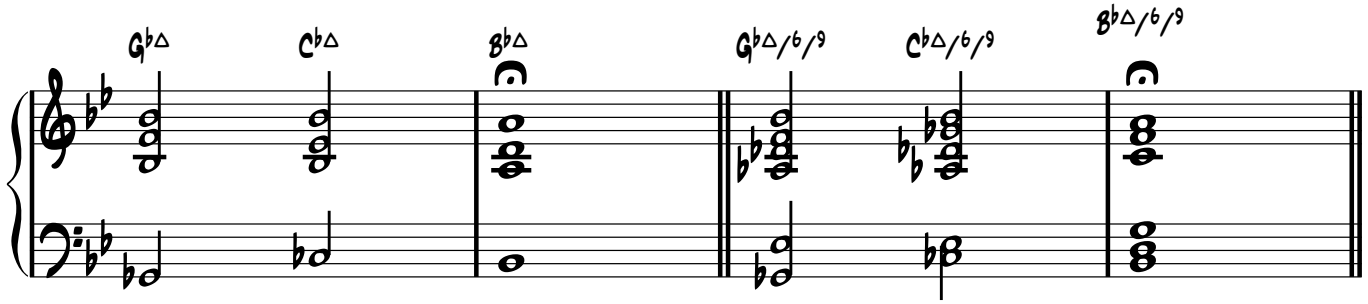
bVII ascending



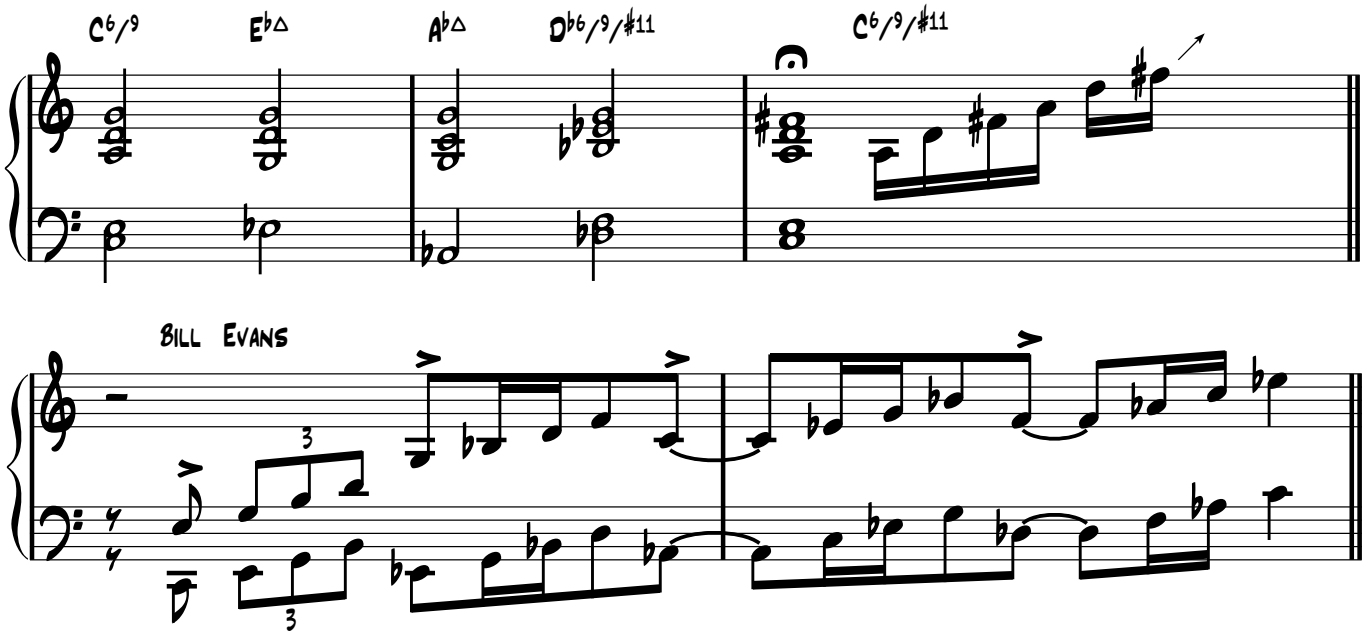
bII



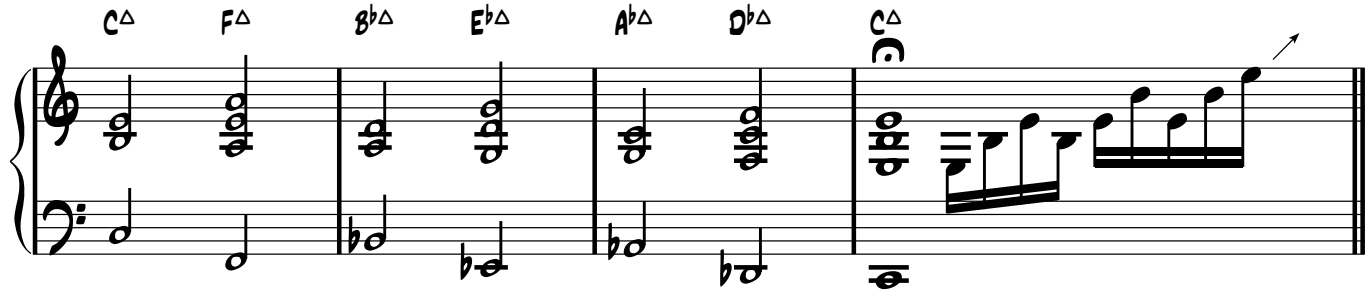
bVI - bII



"Lady Bird'' ending



circle of fifth's



Make any variation you like, or borrow any ending you like from your favourite pianist! Also work on playing pianosolo (maybe an entire tune, or a part of the theme). Same thing, nice voicings or further reharmonisation of the melody, nice fills and intro-ending.
However, also pay more attention to rubato playing, which means more dynamics, ritenuto/accelerando, sound of the piano and use of the left hand! Listen a lot to solo recordings, like Bill evans –alone/alone again, all the Live at Maybeck recordings (Barry Harris, Kenny Barron, Fred Hersch, Hank Jones, etc), some great Oscar Peterson recordings (Little girl blue!), Herbie Hancock- The Piano, Chick Corea- expressions, etc.